

REMARKS

As a preliminary matter, Applicants request acknowledgment of the references cited in an Information Disclosure Statement filed on June 24, 2003. A copy of the Statement, with the postcard receipt, is enclosed.

As another preliminary matter, in response to a Restriction Requirement, Applicants indicated that claims 1-8 are readable on the elected Species. The Examiner withdrew claims 4 and 8 from consideration, without comment. Applicants request an explanation for withdrawal of claims 4 and 8, or reinstatement of those claims for reexamination purposes.

The drawings have been amended as required. The reference line for numeral 901 in Fig. 9B has been amended, as well. Withdrawal is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-3 and 5-7 stand rejection under §102 on the basis of Inoue U.S. Patent No. 5,594,716. Applicants traverse this rejection because Inoue does not disclose (or suggest) an optical medium (or the optical disk of claim 26) in which an identification mark recording region is provided on only one of a land and a groove, as in the present invention.

Claim 1 has been amended to clarify that an identification mark recording region is provided on only one of the land and the groove, and is recorded with a data block identification mark which indicates a start of identification information for identifying a data block. The data block is formed by the data block identification mark, the identification information and the data recording region. These amendments to claim 1 are fully supported

by the original disclosure on page 1, lines 23-35 and page 16, lines 3-9 and Figs. 9A-9D, for example, and contain no new matter.

Claim 3 has also been amended, in line with the amendments to claim 1, to clarify that the identification mark recording region is provided in only one of the first identification information recording region and the second identification recording region at a position preceding the identification information.

With regard to the base claim 1, the examiner asserts that Inoue teaches an identification mark recording region provided on only one of the land and the groove and recorded with a data block identification mark, in column 3, lines 9-22, column 5, lines 11-20 and Fig. 1. However, Inoue merely proposes recording address information on the land at portions A and recording the address information on the groove at portions B as shown in Fig. 1. Hence, the address information in Inoue is recorded on both the land and the groove.

On the other hand, in the present invention, an identification mark recording region is provided on only one of the land and the groove, and is recorded with a data block identification mark which indicates a start of identification information for identifying a data block. This data block is formed by the data block identification mark, the identification information and the data recording region. According to the present invention, it is possible to prevent erroneous detection of the data block identification mark because the data block identification mark is recorded on only one of the land and the groove, as described on page 9, lines 7-12 of the specification.

Inoue fails to teach or suggest the above described features and effects of the present invention. Accordingly, it is believed that the base claim 1 and claims 2, 3 and 5-7 dependent upon the base claim 1 are allowable over Inoue.


A new claim 26 is added for consideration. The new claim 26 is based on claim 1, but is directed to a magnetic disk having a sector mark recorded as the data block identification mark of claim 1. No new matter is added. For reasons similar to those described above with respect to claim 1, it is believed that claim 26 is also allowable over the prior art of record.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant submits that this Application is now in condition for allowance, which is respectfully requested. The Examiner should contact the undersigned attorney if an interview would expedite prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,

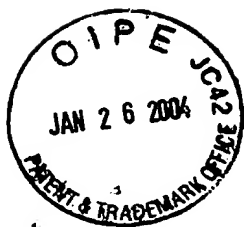
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H 11

FIG.1
(PRIOR ART)

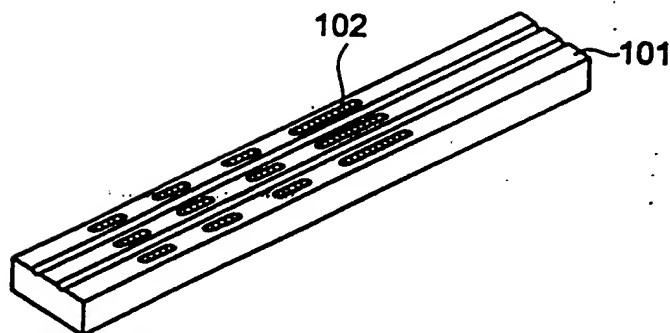


FIG.2
(PRIOR ART)

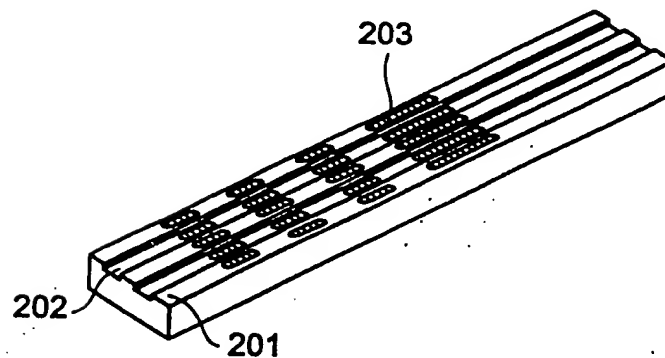




FIG.3
(PRIOR ART)

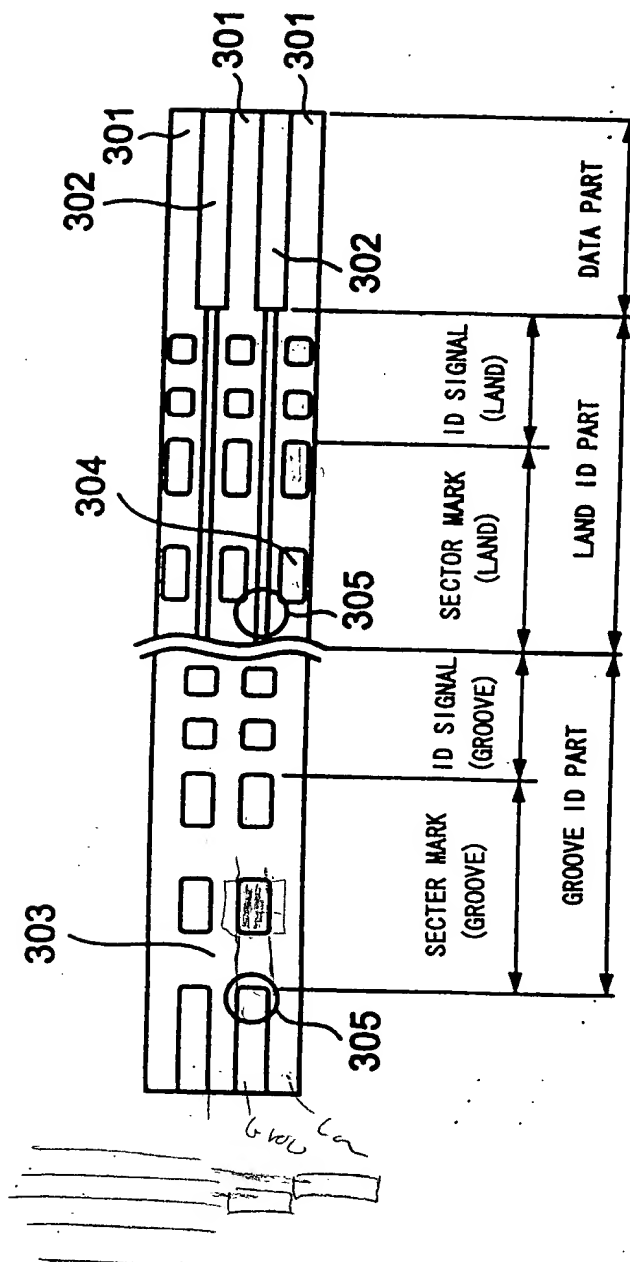




FIG. 4
 (PRIOR ART)

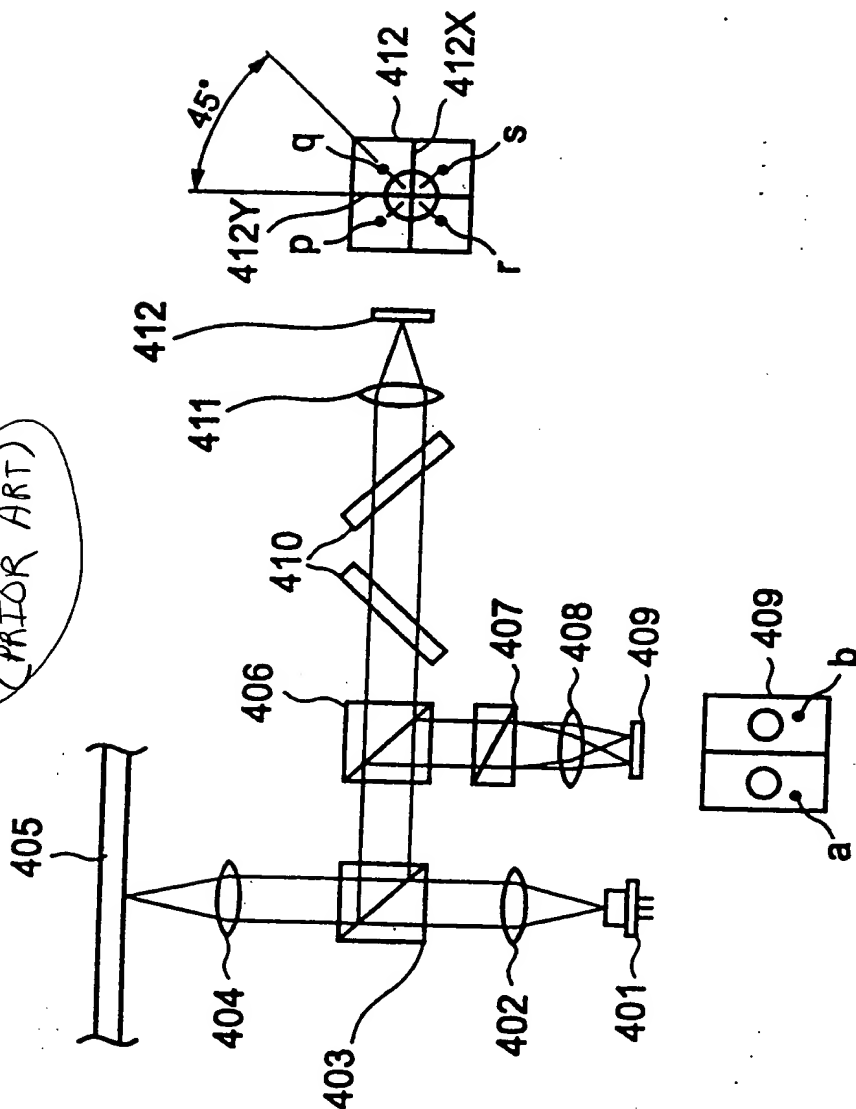
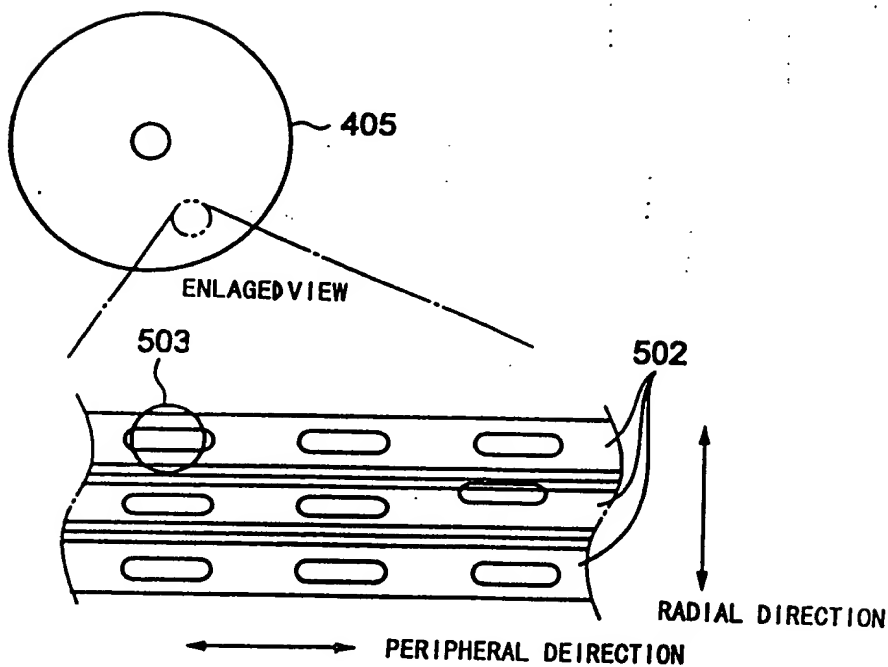
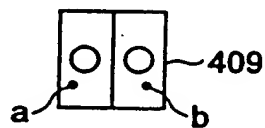




FIG.5A
 (PRIOR ART)

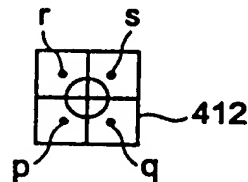


(PRIOR ART) **FIG.5B**



$$\begin{aligned} \text{MO} &= a - b \\ \text{ID (SECTOR MARK)} &= a + b \end{aligned}$$

FIG.5C (PRIOR ART)



$$\begin{aligned} \text{FES} &= (p + s) - (q + r) \\ \text{TES} &= (p + q) - (r + s) \end{aligned}$$

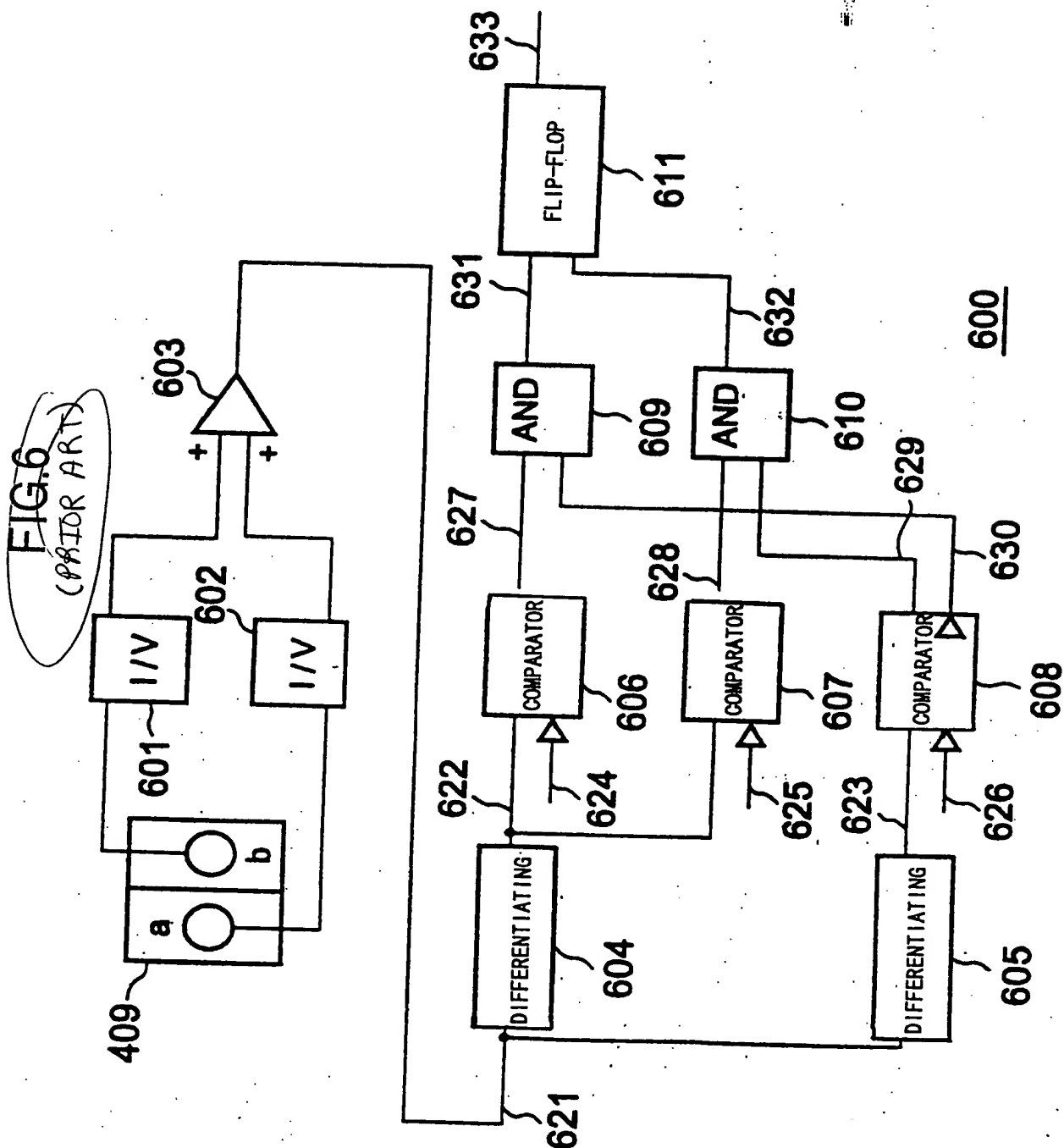
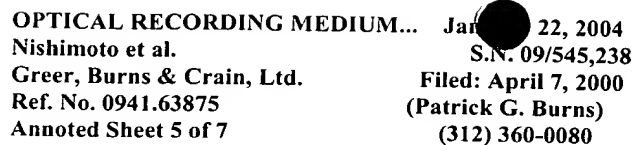




FIG. 7A
(PRIOR ART)

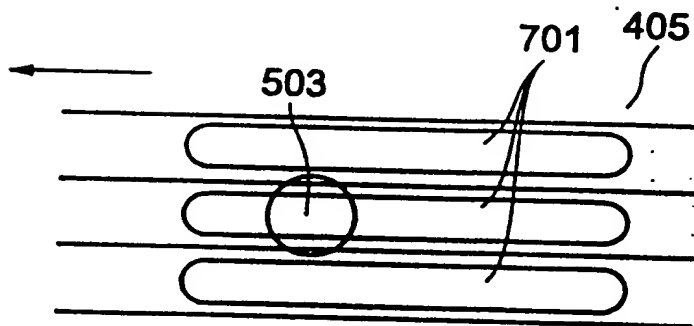


FIG. 7B
(PRIOR ART)

